

CINCINNATI, WEDNESDAY, JULY 28, 1841.

VOLUME VI. NO. 7. WHOLE NO 267

THE PHILANTHROPIST,  
PUBLISHED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF  
THE OHIO STATE ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY.  
Main st., between 4th & 5th, East side.

CINCINNATI, OHIO.

SAMUEL A. ALLEY, Printer.

TERMS.—TWO DOLLARS a year in advance.  
Letters on business should be directed to the Publishing Agent, WILLIAM DEARLOVE—those relating to the editorial department, to the EDITOR.—In all cases post paid.

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THE ORDINANCE OF EIGHTY-SEVEN.

I assumed in the Gazette of June 25, that a slave is not reclaimable in Ohio, unless he have escaped from one of the original [13] states.—This position is taken on the Ordinance of 1787 for the government of the North Western Territory, and seems to be impregnable unless it can be shown that the ordinance has lost its force.

The grant of the North Western Territory to the United States was made by Virginia, under the old Confederation. There is no dispute as to the power of the Congress then existing to accept the grant, and to make laws for the government of the ceded territory. The ordinance of '87 was enacted for its government—by the last Congress that met under the Confederation. It contains six articles, which are declared to be—for extending the fundamental principles of civil and religious liberty—for fixing and establishing those principles as the basis of all laws, constitutions and governments, which forever hereafter shall be formed in said territory—providing for the establishment of States and permanent government therein—and for their admission to a share in the federal councils on an equal footing with the original States, &amp;c.

Of these "articles" it is further declared, they shall be considered as articles of compact between the original States and the people and States in said territory, and forever remain unalterable unless by common consent.

The last of these articles of compact, after declaring that neither slavery nor involuntary servitude otherwise than in punishment of crimes, &amp;c., shall "be" in the said territory, provides, that any person escaping into the same, from whom labor or service is lawfully claimed, in any of the original states, such fugitive may be lawfully reclaimed, &amp;c.

The articles of Confederation contained no clause providing for the delivery of slaves escaping from one State into another. A proposition for such a clause, if we mistake not, was rejected. If the provision contained in the ordinance was necessary to authorize their reclaimation and delivery at all—and if a particular case is specifically described and provided for—it would be wasting words to set about proving that all other cases, *ex vi termini*, are excluded. The "original" States do not mean the "new" States. And here *expressio unius, exclusio alterius*, (the specification of a single thing is the exclusion of every other thing) a maxim of common sense as well as of law, well applies.

Why this limitation of the provision to the "original States" was made, may be satisfactorily accounted for from the prevailing sentiment of the times. Neither the Congress of '87 that passed the ordinance, nor the Convention that formed the Constitution, nor the Congress of '89 that ratified the ordinance without alteration, expected that any "new" State would ever be admitted to the Union as a slaveholding State. That the honorable hopes and expectations of the patriots of that day, have not been fulfilled by subsequent events, has nothing to do, however, with the interpretation of the ordinance of '87.

At the time the Ordinance was enacted, the Government consisted of only the "original" (13) States—no "new" States having yet been admitted. Its power to make the Ordinance *perpetual—unalterable*—unless by common consent, has at no time, that I am aware of, been drawn in question.

The Congress which enacted the Ordinance was in session at the same time—in the same place (Philadelphia) that the Convention which formed the Constitution of the United States was. It is reasonable to presume it to have been well understood by both assemblies, that the fundamental principles of the Ordinance should in nothing be repugnant to what were expected would be the fundamental principles of the Constitution then in the process of being formed. No repugnancy, it is believed, has ever been alleged.

The first Congress that met under the Constitution (in '89) ratified the Ordinance in "an act to provide for the Government of the Territory north west of the river Ohio"—which has this preamble:

"Whereas, in order that the Ordinance of the United States, in Congress assembled, for the government of the territory north-west of the river Ohio may continue to have full effect, it is requisite that certain provisions should be made so as to adapt the same to the present Constitution of the United States—Be it enacted," &amp;c.

The "certain provisions" of the act have no reference to the six articles of compact—they are merely formal.

The act of Congress of April 30, 1802, authorizing the people, of what now is the State of Ohio, to form a Constitution, and for their admission to the Union, prescribes that the Constitution "shall be republican; and not repugnant to the ordinance of '87."

The Constitution of Ohio begins thus: "We, the people of the eastern division," &amp;c., "having the right of admission into the general government as a member of the Union, consistent with the constitution of the United States, the ordinance of Congress of 1787," &amp;c.

The acts of Congress, authorizing the people of Indiana (1816)—of Illinois (1818)—of Michigan (1835)—to form State Constitutions, and for their admission to the Union, contain a similar limitation to that in the case of Ohio. Their

From the Cincinnati Gazette.  
THE NEW THEORY RESPECTING FUGITIVE SLAVES.

Mr. EDITOR, Sir—A writer in the Gazette of the 12th inst. over the signature of "J." has requested that the "incorrectness" if there be any, in his "view of the main point" of the subject which he has undertaken to discuss, "may be shown." Without presuming to make distinctly manifest the "incorrectness" of that view, the writer of this communication respectfully asks permission to present through your columns, some considerations thereon:—considerations which, perhaps, may have an influence upon the opinions given forth in the article alluded to, and which may not be altogether uninteresting to those of your readers who are inclined to adopt and entertain said opinions.

The Constitution of the United States, Act VI., says: "All engagements entered into before the adoption of this Constitution, shall be valid against the United States, under this constitution, as under the confederation."

In conclusion on this point, Mr. Webster [speech on Foote's Resolutions] speaks of the ordinance as an original compact, not only above all local law, but above all local constitutions.

These may be termed the facts in the case, enough of them, at least, to show that Congress and the "people and States of the territory" have, on every suitable occasion, recognized in the most ample manner, the validity of the ordinance.

With this basis, the case may be plainly stated, and, as I think, a satisfactory conclusion arrived at. Suppose, instead of the change in the form of the government that took place, the Confederation had continued up to the time that Ohio, after complying with all the conditions imposed on her by the Ordinance, was admitted as a State to the Confederation; but that previous to her admission Kentucky and Tennessee had also been admitted as slaveholding States. What would have been her relation to these two States so far as the matter in hand was concerned? She would have been under no obligation in *virtue of the ordinance*, to deliver up to their slaves when flying for refuge to her free soil. They were not *original* States, but the *opposite*, and therefore *excluded*, if any words can be found to express the idea, from the scope of the obligation. This seems to be a case clear of all doubt.But one of the parties to the compact embraced in the ordinance, the Government under the "articles of confederation" changes its form—*and* becomes the government under "constitution"; this, too, without the agency in any way of the other party. The change that has been made in the form of the government cannot in any way affect the force of the obligations into which it has entered.

The "engagements" of the Confederation become the engagements of the Union.—Ohio may enter this Union under the ordinance or not.

It is entirely discretionary with her—but she has a *perfect right* to do so, on performing the condition embraced in the ordinance. It is not with her (and the other states made out of the N. W. Territory) it is with states which have made no compact with the government.—They "may be admitted," if Congress think it best. But the title of Ohio to admission is *complete* on her performance of the conditions prescribed in the ordinance. If so, Congress can prescribe no other terms of admission, nor can the facts of her asking admission, and being admitted to the Union be urged as constituting an assent to any thing not *necessary* to her admission, especially when such assent involves a permanent relinquishment of sovereignty—the power of giving full protection and security to all within the bounds of her jurisdiction. Congress has never asked of Ohio—for it has no right—that her obligation to deliver fugitives from labor and service should be extended to the "new" States; and were she to consent to it without a full equivalent, it would be regarded as an act of suicidal folly.A multitude of other considerations might be presented bearing on the subject—but I shall defer the reader no longer than to give a more direct answer than can be gathered from the foregoing remarks, to a single position. The position is this—that as Ohio has entered the Union on an equal footing with the other States, she of course assumes in all respects the same obligations and liabilities that the other States are under to her and one another; and as the delivery of fugitives from labor is included in these obligations she also is bound to deliver them. This is plausible—seems just. But it is not. The original States as well as most of the "new" States have come under no conventional restriction against the establishment of slavery. With one exception, of the States made out of the Northwestern Territory, they all have been, or may (if they choose) become slaveholding States. A perfect reciprocity may exist among them as to the delivery of fugitives from labor, but it never can with Ohio. She has debarred herself forever, if she adhere with good faith to the ordinance, from becoming a slaveholding State. As she can never have any runaway slaves to reclaim, this friendly office that is asked of her by the slave States, can never be reciprocated. There is then, ample reason why she should not be bound to do it. For it is not with States—political communities—as it is with individuals. They confer no gratuitous favors—except on acknowledged *inferiors*. If one State grant a privilege or benefit to another, it is only in view of an equivalent being rendered. Ohio having relinquished the right—if that can be called a right which is the destruction of all right of slaveholding, she cannot receive the equivalent in kind. No equivalent in any other form has yet been offered, and accepted for the surrender of such portion of her sovereignty as the case involves; therefore she is bound by no obligation.I take it to be law that no man can be sent out of this State against his will, unless on a charge duly made of treason, felony, or other crime committed in another State. If this be so, and if my view of the main point be correct—and if it is not, I trust, its incorrectness may be shown—every slave (except he be of the original States) who is fortunate enough to win his way to Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan or Wisconsin, is redeemed from slavery and made a *free-man*, not only by the spirit, but by the letter of that glorious monument erected to liberty by our father, the ordinance of '87.

Now, that there is such "repugnancy" or conflict, is made apparent thus:—In the article of the ordinance, which was passed July 13th, 1787, it is declared, "there shall be neither slavery, nor involuntary servitude in the said [North-Western] Territory." This is a fundamental law for that territory. To this law, however, the same article provides an exception in these words:—"Provided, always, that any person escaping into the same, from whom labor or service is lawfully claimed in any one of the original States, such fugitive may be law-

fully reclaimed and conveyed to the person claiming his or her labor or service aforesaid."

Now the Constitution of the United States, which passed from the hands of the convention in September, 1787, though it was not ratified by subsequently, extends that exception by providing that any person held to labor or service in any State, under the laws thereof, escaping into any other State, shall be delivered up on claim of the party to whom such service or labor may be due. Its words have already been given above. It extends the exception in the ordinance. Perhaps the truth is more nearly expressed by saying that the exception in the Constitution covers the whole ground occupied by the exception in the ordinance, and also *additional* ground.

The ordinance exception encroaches, if you please, upon a fundamental law of the Territory. The Constitution exception encroaches still further upon that fundamental law. It seems to say to the exception in the ordinance—"you are not comprehensive enough. I will comprehend all that you include, and will embrace still more." The exception in the ordinance limits what the exception in the Constitution declares shall be extended farther. The former prohibits to the new slave holding states (they were "excluded," says your correspondent from the scope of the obligation), the right of reclaiming runaway slaves. The latter abolishes that prohibition. Is there not a conflict—a repugnancy?

And now observe that the United States in Congress assembled originated the exception in the ordinance, while, "We, the People of the United States," originated the conflicting exception in the Constitution. Which authority was supreme? In 4 Wheaton's Reports, 473—Chief Justice Marshall says—"If any one proposition could command the universal assent of mankind, we might expect it would be this—that the government of the Union, though limited in its powers, is *supreme* within its sphere of action. This would seem to require necessarily from its nature. It is the government of all, its powers are delegated by all, it represents all, and acts for all. But this question is not left to mere reason—the people have in express terms decided it by saying, 'this Constitution and the laws of the United States, which shall be made in pursuance thereof, shall be the supreme law of the land,' and by requiring that the 'members of the State Legislatures, and the officers of the Executive and Judicial departments of the States, shall take the oath of fidelity to it.' I ask again which authority is supreme?" There can be but one answer, and the exception enacted by the inferior authority must yield.This view, it seems to me, might be satisfactory and conclusive to those of your readers, conversant with this subject, who believe that any one should think of discussing this subject. The provision referred to is contained in the second section of the fourth article, and is as follows:—"No person held to service or labor in one state, under the laws thereof, escaping into another, shall in consequence of any law or regulation therein, be discharged from such service or labor; but shall be delivered up on claim of the party to whom such service or labor may be due." "This clause," says Judge Story, in 3 commentaries on the Constitution, 676, "was introduced into the Constitution, solely for the benefit of the slaveholding states, to enable them to reclaim their fugitive slaves, who should have escaped into other States, where slavery was not tolerated."—Now your correspondent, by keeping this clause away from the eyes of his readers, contributes to the fixing of this error in their minds, to wit: that the ordinance of 1787 contains our *only* law, respecting the reclaiming of runaway slaves; that the Constitution of the United States has said nothing about it; and by such proceeding, he furnishes occasion to those, who may be less disposed to believe in his candor, than is the present writer, to insinuate that he is presenting these views of his, not for the purpose of truth, but for the sake of agitation, or the selfish triumph of some party. The present writer does not believe so himself, but he knows that in this community, are individuals who, on account of this unwarrantable omission, have put such fatal construction upon his motive.One "incorrectness" in the "view" of your correspondent, as it seems to me, consists in maintaining that article 6, of the ordinance of '87, supersedes over the 3d clause of the 2d section of article 4, of the Constitution of the United States. These two provisions do certainly conflict with each other. One of them must fall, and as "We, the People of the United States," have declared in article 6, of the Constitution, that "this Constitution shall be the supreme law of the land," and that "the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby," I think that article 6 of the ordinance must yield; it must be regarded as subordinate, if not as altogether dead, in the presence of that "supreme" clause of the Constitution, which conflicts with it. Judge McLean—in 1 McLean's Reports, 343—says, "It is insisted that if effect be given to this provision of the ordinance, [respecting navigation of western waters] it is restrictive of the sovereign power of the State; and is repugnant not only to the Constitution of the State, and the Constitution of the United States, but even to the original States which have said nothing to the contrary."—Now your correspondent, by keeping this clause away from the eyes of his readers, contributes to the fixing of this error in their minds, to wit: that the ordinance of 1787 contains our *only* law, respecting the reclaiming of runaway slaves; that the Constitution of the United States has said nothing about it; and by such proceeding, he furnishes occasion to those, who may be less disposed to believe in his candor, than is the present writer, to insinuate that he is presenting these views of his, not for the purpose of truth, but for the sake of agitation, or the selfish triumph of some party. The present writer does not believe so himself, but he knows that in this community, are individuals who, on account of this unwarrantable omission, have put such fatal construction upon his motive.

If then, I repeat, the Ordinance of 1787, be as Mr. Webster stated, a compact—or more truly, if it contains articles of compact between two distinct existing parties, the "original states" on one side, and the "people and states of the North Western Territory" on the other—if it has been originated by qualified authorities—if it has been sufficiently accepted by both parties—if rights have become vested under it—if it provide, within its own instrument, that its specified articles of compact, shall "forever remain unalterable unless by common consent"—and if the people themselves, through their Constitution, declare that the engagements under the compact shall be inviolable; it seems beyond dispute, evident to me that there is no where any power that may rightfully alter a single article of compact in the ordinance, except such power reside in the parties themselves, and except such alteration be made by common consent.

Now, it is very far from being clear to the minds of all who have looked most into this subject, that the six articles in the ordinance, which by its framers have been denominated articles of compact, are really entitled to be so characterized. Most assuredly if the articles themselves do not possess the essential characteristics of a contract (for in 8 Wheaton's Reports, page 1, Judge Washington says, "The terms compact and contract are synonymous" and in Fletcher vs. Peck, the Chief Justice defines a contract to be a compact between two (or more parties,) "any most formal, resolute, and frequent application to them of the phrase—'articles of compact,' cannot possibly make them so. It is worthy of notice, that at the time of the framing of the ordinance, at the time of the origination of this so called compact, the second party to it, to wit: the "people and States of the North-Western Territory" had no actual existence. This pretended second party had, of course no share in the framing of it. At the time of the formation of the U. S. Constitution, this pretended second party had not assented to it, and if the Congress which enacted it, had at that time, repealed it, such repeal would have been valid—no rights would have been violated; there was no aggrieved party to complain—no obligation would have been broken—no contract existed. It was not until April, 1788, on the first arrival of settlers at Marietta, that a second party existed. That party did not at once formally accept the ordinance. The ordinance was never formally accepted by "the people and States in the North-Western Territory." The best evidence I can find of any sort of acceptance thereof, is in the first Legislative action under the

ordinance—and that did not take place until July 25th, 1788—see 1 Chase's Statutes, 93.

But mark, on the 21st June, 1788, the Constitution of the United States had been ratified by the accession of nine states—Constitution altering the articles "to be considered" articles of compact. Of course the inchoate contract was accepted with the alteration. These remarks are only sound, on the admission of this fact. Legislative action under the ordinance is the only legitimate evidence of the acceptance of the ordinance. I repeat, that until acceptance, the contract so called, was no contract—but a "fundamental law of Congress." It was a series of enactments that were "to be considered articles of compact"—when accepted. It would certainly be an anomalous classification to range under the head of contracts, that instrument for whose acceptance no second party existed, and from whose obligations, the first party might, at any time, previous to its dissolution, have entirely withdrawn. In accordance with these statements is the opinion of Judge Lane in 9 Ohio Reports, 62. His words are, "I have called this part (of the ordinance) a compact because it is so termed in the instrument, but if it were not for some things which have since taken place, there might be great difficulty in regarding it in that light. There was in reality, but one party to it originally, and that was the General Government."

So much for the ordinance considered—as a Judge Lane considered it in its origin—as a "fundamental law of Congress." If it be only such, the people have a right to abrogate, annul, or repeal it, and one clause of it in the exercise of their indisputable right, they certainly have repealed.

I do not, however, for myself, insist peremptorily upon the just presented view. I prefer contemplating the ordinance in the character in which your correspondent considers it; as being, or creating, or containing a compact—a compact distinctly declaring that it shall forever remain unalterable unless by common consent. J. A. J.

From the Cincinnati Gazette.  
THE NEW THEORY RESPECTING RECLAMING FUGITIVE SLAVES.I have endeavored, Mr. Editor, to show that the Constitution of the U. S. does alter the ordinance of '87. Let us now keep distinctly in view the precise point. The alteration, I repeat is in this—the ordinance limits within a certain range, an exception to a fundamental law of the North-Western Territory, while the United States Constitution extends the range of that exception. The one limits the right of reclaiming runaway slaves to the original states, while the other extends that right to all the states. That is the point, and the only point—the Constitution does not conflict with the ordinance in any other clause but that—only in that single provision has the Constitution altered the ordinance; and my proposition now is this:—*such alteration has been made by common consent*.

Being so made, the specified condition under which an alteration might be effected in the ordinance, has been completely satisfied. I confess, however, that a consideration of this part of our subject is attended with some difficulty. It is difficult to get at precise notions upon it, and also difficult to so express those notions as to obtain for them the desirable assent.

My first object is to state what I suppose would be universally deemed a sufficient expression, and evidence of that common consent—such as would completely answer all the literal demands of the terms in the ordinance. The terms are these: the following articles shall be considered as articles of compact between the original states, and the people and States in the said Territory, and forever remain unalterable unless by common consent." Now, were a clause like that contained in the Constitution of the United States, and the people and States in the said Territory, to form the compact, it would be an acceptance of the rights and obligations of the Constitution of the U. S. by the people in the Eastern division of the territory, and of course an expression of their portion of the common consent in question. I find that on the same day—November 29th, 1802—the convention adopted the Constitution of the State of Ohio, by which adoption the State was instantly admitted into the rights and obligations of the Constitution of the U. S. by the people in the Eastern division of the territory, and of course an acceptance of the rights and obligations of the Constitution of the U. S. by the people in the Western division of the territory, to wit: the five States and the people in the Territory, have through successive acts, been furnishing evidence of this mind, this common consent, from the first ratification of the Constitution by Delaware, in 1787, to the last adoption of it, in 1835, by Michigan.

The people in each of the thirteen States, by delegates in convention, accepted the Constitution of the United States, and of course, that clause in it which altered a clause in the ordinance. At the instant of such acceptance by its people, each State became admitted to the Union—i. e. into the rights and obligations of the Constitution of the United States, and so was exhibited by all the original States, their portions of that common consent indispensable to a change of the ordinance.

Let us now come over to the other party. We find that the first action, which finally resulted in the giving in of the portion of that common consent, existing within the limits of Ohio, was an act of Congress of April 30th, 1802.—This law authorized the inhabitants of the Eastern division of the territory to form a constitution and State government—"and the said State when formed shall be admitted into the Union," (i. e. into the rights and obligations of the Constitution of the United States) "upon the same terms as the original States." The next action on the subject was in November 29th, 1802, when "the Representatives of the people of this Eastern division," "having had under consideration the propositions offered by the said act," did "resolve to accept of said propositions," one of which was, *admission into the rights and obligations of the Constitution of the U. S. by the people in the Eastern division of the territory, and of course an expression of their portion of the common consent in question*. I find that on the same day—November 29th, 1802—the convention adopted the Constitution of the State of Ohio, by which adoption the State was instantly admitted into the rights and obligations of the Constitution of the U. S. by the people in the Eastern division of the territory, and of course an acceptance of the rights and obligations of the Constitution of the U. S. by the people

the following authorities: In 5 Ohio Reports, 416, the Court declared that "the Constitution (of Ohio) may be altered by the people of the State, while this [the ordinance of '87] cannot be altered without the assent both of the people of this State and of the United States, through their representatives." In 1, McLean's Reports, 343, the United States Court goes so far as to say, that any provision, even in the Constitution of Ohio, altering any provision of the ordinance, must stand valid, inasmuch as Congress having sanctioned this Constitution, the necessary common consent existed. The words of the Court are as follows:—"And it may be admitted that any provision in the Constitution of the State, must annul any repugnant provision contained in the ordinance. This is within the terms of the compact. The people of the State formed the Constitution, and it was sanctioned by Congress, so that there was the common consent required by the compact to alter or annul it." In 9, Ohio reports, 62, the Court says: "When application for admission into the Union was made by the people inhabiting the eastern part of the territory, modifications in several parts of the ordinance were asked for, and they were granted by the United States as one party, to the State as the other."

These citations I have made for the purpose of indicating the opinion of our Courts upon this subject—for the purpose of getting at what constitutes the common consent spoken of in the ordinance—for the purpose of showing that the four Northwestern States, in accepting the Constitution of the United States, accepted that one of its articles which altered the ordinance, and thus expressed their part of that common consent indispensable to its alteration, creating their political communities without doing any thing repugnant to the ordinance—and for the purpose of diminishing the apprehension, if any exist, that in the event of judicial action upon this subject, our courts would not decide in conformity with what has so long been held to be law, not merely under the ordinance of 1787, but under the Constitution of the United States.

In conclusion, I remark, that the so far adopted mode of exhibiting the common consent, is the true and practicable mode. There have been seventeen unequivocal declarations, by the people in seventeen States, each speaking omnipotently for itself, expressing portions of this common consent, and when Wisconsin shall have accepted the Constitution of the United States, the only remaining portion of that common consent will be finally manifested. Until this time, it seems to me, that so far as the claim in question is concerned, Wisconsin is still governed by the ordinance of '87, and, consequently, slaves escaped into its territory, from any but the original States, cannot lawfully be reclaimed.

So much for the ordinance considered as a compact. In either point of view—whether contemplated as a law, or a compact—I have endeavored to show that the exception in its sixth article, on the subject of slavery, has been lawfully abrogated by a conflicting provision in the Constitution of the United States, or formally altered in conformity with the provision for that purpose, in the ordinance itself.

I hope to-morrow to show that under the ordinance of '87, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Alabama, may reclaim their runaway slaves. Our correspondent will then be driven, with his oratory, into Louisiana, Arkansas and Missouri, for whom however, as we have seen, the Constitution of the United States provides.

I. A. J.

*From the Cincinnati Daily Gazette.*

#### The New Theory Respecting Fugitive Slaves.

There is an other point of view, Mr. Editor, wherefrom this subject may be held, which ought to be presented, in order that our conceptions of it may be more complete and precise. It is this:—The ordinance of 1787, in providing for the reclamation of slaves escaping from the original States, actually provides for the reclamation of slaves from Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Alabama, inasmuch as on July 13th 1787, when this provision was made, the territory of these four States, was altogether without any reservation included in the expression *original States*. Kentucky was part and parcel of Virginia, under the name of District of Kentucky—Tennessee was part and parcel of North Carolina—Alabama & Mississippi were embraced within the chartered limits of other original Southern States. Notwithstanding your correspondent asserts that: "Kentucky & Tennessee were not original States, but the opposite." I venture to deny that assertion, and to declare that the statements which I have just made, are historical truths, for whose authentication, there are proofs abundant. As your correspondent's has specially designated Kentucky and Tennessee, as within the limits of the expression *original States*, I shall, at present, introduce authorities applicable to only these two States. The error of your correspondent is merely one of fact—of metes and bounds—and will, I doubt not, when pointed out, be at once recognized and acknowledged. He believes that the expression *original States* embraced no more territory than is now embraced within the limits of certain *thirteen States* east of the mountains—there is his mistake.

In Butler's history of Kentucky, page 40, I find that in 1776 the "county of Kentucky" was created by the Legislature of Virginia, that this county "embraced the limits of the present State of Kentucky," that by this measure it was entitled under the Constitution of Virginia, to a representation in the legislature, as well as to a judicial and military arrangement." The judiciary act of 1789 provides, in its second section, that one district shall "consist of the State of Virginia, except that part called the District of Kentucky, and one to consist of the remaining part of the State of Virginia, and to be called the *Kentucky District*." The act of Congress of February 3th, 1771, admitting Kentucky into the Union, declares, that "Congress consents that the said District of Kentucky, within the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth of Virginia, shall, &c." There is not a more indubitably established fact in American history, than that the territory which the word Kentucky now embraces, was embraced by the phrase, *original States* in 1787.

In respect to Tennessee, I find in the sixteenth volume of the American State Papers—page 108—that in December, 1780, the "State of North Carolina, being then rightfully possessed of the jurisdiction and also of the soil, in and over all that territory, which now (May 9th, 1800) forms the territory of the State of Tennessee," did cede the same to the United States. I now ask your correspondent to look at the fourth section of that deed of cession by the General Assembly of North Carolina and read this sentence:—"The territory so ceded shall be out and formed into a State or States, containing a suitable extent of Territory, the inhabitants of which shall enjoy all the privileges, benefits and advantages, set forth in the ordinance of the late Congress, for the government of the Western territory of the United States." The ordinance referred to is the ordinance of '87.

To make assurance doubly sure, all the privileges of the ordinance, (one of which is the right of reclaiming runaway slaves,) are expressly reserved to the State of Tennessee. Truly sure is her assurance indeed, for she may reclaim her fugitive slaves, if, under the ordinance of '87—2nd, under the Constitution of the United States—3d, under this Deed of cession which, in 1789, Congress solemnly accepted and bound, itself. She need not fear Tennessee. When your correspondent sees fit to detail similarly well established facts in the history of Alabama and Mississippi, there will be time, and space enough, to answer him. But as there is no test for determining when an adversary is logically dead, and as your correspondent may start up with the exclamation that by reason of certain changes and admissions into the Union, organization of independent governments—sovereignty, and what not—Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, and Mississippi are not entitled to a right conferred upon them when territories were denominated *original states*. I must make another observation. There have been (there can be) but two possible changes—1st, change of name—2d, change of condition. Had the called "District of Kentucky" in 1787 lost the right alluded to of reclaiming fugitive slaves, by taking the region name of the "State of Kentucky" in 1792, then would the Virginian of 1796 have lost the same right, had it seen fit to assume the name of "Victoria" in 1840. *Reductio ad absurdum*. Once more. Were any

change, political, civil, judicial, military, social, or physical, able to wrest such right from the *District of Kentucky*, then changes of similar nature, and there have been enough of them in Virginia since 1792, have wrested such right from other portions of the territory, that is, from Virginia. *Reductio ad absurdum*. The fact is, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi have an equal right to call themselves *original States*, and the "thirteen," the *old States*, as your correspondent to call the "thirteen," *original States* and Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, and Mississippi the new States.

Is a single word more necessary to show that any slave escaping from one of these four States into Ohio, is a slave escaping from the original States in the *North Western Territory*? The erection I repeat of the counties, districts, or section, south of the Ohio river into states, no way changes the idea or fact, embraced by the phrase *original States*, than the creation of States out of the Ohio river, changes the idea or fact, embraced by the expression *North Western Territory*. The ordinance provides for all of the original States and for all of the North West Territory, and if the organization of States out of these regions changed that provision of the ordinance, such organization, as it had not the necessary common consent, was unlawful—a proposition that will not be insisted on for a moment. Such organization did not change the ordinance, and therefore its provisions apply now to the territory embraced by Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi and Alabama, as forcibly as they applied to the same territory in July, 1787. The phrase *original States* did not exclude that territory then, as it does not exclude now. The article in the Constitution of the United States, extends the exception in the ordinance to all the states, and of course to Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, and to any State, to be hereafter carved out of the Territory beyond the Mississippi river. Without the Constitution of the United States, Slaves escaping from Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Alabama, might lawfully be reclaimed under the ordinance.

Your correspondent, acknowledging the binding force of the ordinance, must flee, with his theory, to Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, and with the Constitution of the United States slaves escaping from either of these three States, may likewise be reclaimed—Nothing is wanting. The provisions on this subject are comprehensive and complete. The rights of the slaveholder are, in this matter, encouraged and can at any time be enforced.

"Why this limitation of the provision to the *original States* was made," writes your correspondent, "may be satisfactorily accounted for, from the prevailing sentiment of the times. Neither the Congress of '87 that passed the ordinance, nor the convention that formed the constitution, nor the congress of '89 that ratified the ordinance without alteration, expected that any new State would ever be admitted into the Union, as a slaveholding State—that the honorable *lopes &c.*" To my mind this is no "satisfactory accounting for" the limitation at all. Those bodies certainly did expect that new States would be admitted into the Union as slaveholding States, else why the limitation in the ordinance, and the formal, distinct, express extension of it in the Constitution? If there were to be no slavery in the "new" States, this limitation seems altogether nugatory.

Apparently, it was introduced for the purpose of limiting to the original States a certain privilege—the privilege of reclaiming runaway slaves. What was the sense of expressly creating such privilege, limited in its application, if there were to be no new States with slaves, to which it might possibly, be extended?—Such limitation warrants the remark, that its originators expected that new slave states would be admitted into the confederacy, and anxious to annex this great question. "I. A. J.," I consider has made the strongest argument possible in favor of his position, but to my mind it is inconclusive. Permit me, sir, in the absence of "J.," to offer a few remarks on the objections he urges against the views presented by that writer in a former communication.

1. After having endeavored to prove, that there is an absolute conflict between the federal constitution, and the ordinance of '87, as it regards their respective provisions concerning fugitives from labor, he argues, that the constitution alters the conflicting clause in the ordinance, because, the "United States in Congress" originated the latter, while the *people of the United States* originated the former, and not to contradistinguish them from the States at some future period to be admitted into the confederacy? If so, the limitation in question has nothing to do with any new, future coming states. It is no evidence of any "expectation" about them. It is merely a provision introduced by one party for its own benefit. And this I believe to be the true basis on which should stand the expression *original States*. They called themselves *original* because the term was an appropriate one to designate them in the ordinance, and to distinguish them from the other party, with whom they were contracting. Neither expressly or impliedly, is the ordinance any third party ("new State," whether slaveholding or not) to which the word original stands in any relation. It is not necessary to suppose a third party, in order to justify the introduction of that word. Its introduction was necessary in order to conveniently distinguish the first party—i. e. thirteen States—from the second party—the people and the States of the *North Western Territory*. It follows from this view of the meaning of the phrase *original States* and I ask for your excuse and candid scrutiny, that the "limitation" spoken of by your correspondent was not a limitation. The exception in the ordinance which he calls a limitation was an extended exception. It was extended as far as could be extended. Not until the Constitution of the United States had made a larger provision on the same subject, did this exception put on the appearance of a limitation. Not until the Constitution had made an exception for all the States, did the exception of the ordinance made for thirteen States, assume the character of a limitation. Thus it appears that the framers of the ordinance, instead of introducing into that instrument a limitation, on this subject, really made an exception as large and comprehensive as they could make it. The Constitution afterwards converted it into a limitation. This limitation, instead of being referred to its true author, the Constitution of the United States, is by your correspondent referred to the framers of the ordinance, who were not its true authors but on the contrary, the author of an acceptance as broad as the jurisdiction which they could possibly exercise. To say that the framers of the ordinance introduced it into a limitation to the right of reclaiming runaway slaves, is to state an untruth, and then to argue therefrom, that the Congress of '87 that framed the ordinance, did not expect that "any new State" would ever be admitted into the Union as a slaveholding State." It is a fallacy which has not even the merit of starting from right premises. Without presuming to "satisfactorily account for this limitation," I will venture to suggest that its true character and the inferences it warrants may be recognized in the above statements. The thirteen States secured for themselves the exercise of a right which in the event of future accession of States might have become an exclusive right. A power mightier than that which framed the ordinance, the sovereign people of the United States—revering thro' the Constitution its will that such right should not be an exclusive one, but that it should be enjoyed by every one in the Union.

I. A. J.

ANOTHER SLAVE CASE.—Lucy Fagins, a colored girl, was brought before Judge Wilde in Boston, on the 16th inst., on a writ of Habeas Corpus. She was a slave in Richmond, Va., and hired of her master by a person named Ludlaw. Ludlaw being absent from home on account of his wife's ill health, heard of the dangerous illness of his wife's father, Capt. Dunbar of New Bedford, and immediately came to that place with his wife and family, bringing Lucy to take care of their children.

Ludlaw's answer admitted that the girl became free by coming into Massachusetts, but that she wished to remain in his family. Ludlaw's counsel then suggested that she wished to remain in his family. Ludlaw's counsel then suggested that the Judge should examine her privately, to ascertain her wishes in this respect, in order that her mind might be free from any influence. No objection being made to this course on the other side, the girl retired into the law library with the Judge. An interval of great anxiety to the persons present ensued.—After a few minutes the Judge returned with Lucy, and stated that she chose to be free, and remain here. This declaration produced a thrill of delight in most of the spectators. Lucy was accordingly discharged.—Mass. Spy.

## THE PHILANTHROPIST.

EDITED BY G. BAILEY, JR.

CINCINNATI,  
Wednesday Morning, July 28, 1841.

### THE GREAT QUESTION.—ORDINANCE OF '87

We make no apology for occupying our paper this week chiefly with the discussion of the ordinance of '87 in its bearings on slavery. It is a vast question, and every citizen should be fully informed in regard to it. If settled as we believe it ought to be settled, then Ohio will no longer be the race-ground of the slave hunter—she will be under no obligation to deliver up slaves escaping from Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Alabama, and Mississippi is the new State.

Is a single word more necessary to show that any slave escaping from one of these four States into Ohio, is a slave escaping from the original States in the *North Western Territory*? The erection I repeat of the counties, districts, or section, south of the Ohio river into states, no way changes the idea or fact, embraced by the phrase *original States*, than the creation of States out of the Ohio river, changes the idea or fact, embraced by the expression *North Western Territory*. The ordinance provides for all of the original States and for all of the North West Territory, and if the organization of States out of these regions changed that provision of the ordinance, such organization, as it had not the necessary common consent, was unlawful—a proposition that will not be insisted on for a moment. Such organization did not change the ordinance, and therefore its provisions apply now to the territory embraced by Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi and Alabama, as forcibly as they applied to the same territory in July, 1787. The phrase *original States* did not exclude that territory then, as it does not exclude now. The article in the Constitution of the United States, extends the exception in the ordinance to all the states, and of course to Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, and to any State, to be hereafter carved out of the Territory beyond the Mississippi river. Without the Constitution of the United States, Slaves escaping from Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Alabama, might lawfully be reclaimed under the ordinance.

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country is subjected by this slavery, which is such a favorite with the American people.

"As connecting itself immediately with this subject and calling for the most vigilant course of policy on the part of the Government of the United States, the committee beg leave to call the attention of the House to the measure now being adopted by Great Britain to keep afloat and actively employed on our Northern coast and in the West Indies a large number of steamers of the largest class; many of them with their guns on board, and the others at all times ready to receive them.

Some time since, a contract was made with Mr. Cunard and his associates, to carry the Royal mail from Liverpool to Halifax for the sum of sixty thousand pounds sterling, or \$291,600 per annum. In compliance with this contract, four steamers have been constructed and placed on the line, of twelve hundred tons burden and 450 horses each. These vessels leave Liverpool and Halifax every fortnight, and perform the trip across the Atlantic each way with great certainty in twelve days. These steamers are commanded by officers of the Royal Navy, and are to be at all times subject to the orders of Government. So great have been not only the facilities afforded to commerce and intercourse, owing to the revenue in the cost of carrying the mail, that it is now proposed to double the number of steamers, that they may leave their respective ports every week instead of every fortnight. The London Journal of Commerce, says: 'Under the old packet system, between Falmouth and Halifax, by the gun boats, the expense to Government was about forty thousand pounds sterling annually more than the receipts of postage. By the line of Cunard's steam ships, a balance of twenty thousand pounds appears already to the credit of the Atlantic mails.' This line has been extended to Boston.

On the 20th March, 1840, a contract was entered into between the Commissioners of the Admiralty and 'the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company,' for conveying 'all Her Majesty's mails' from such ports in the British channel as the commissioners shall prescribe, to the West Indian islands, the coast of South America, Mexico, and the United States, touching and delivering the mails at the ports specified on the map annexed to this report, on which are traced the various lines of communication to be established in pursuance of the contract. The company is bound to 'provide, maintain, keep seaworthy, and in complete repair, and readiness,' for the purpose of conveying the mails, 'a sufficient number—no less than fourteen—of good, substantial, and efficient steam-vessels, of such construction and strength as to be fit and able to carry guns of the largest calibre now used on board of Her Majesty's steam vessels of war.' To adopt from time to time, and at all times, such changes or improvements in construction, machinery, armament, and rigging, as the commissioners may require. To carry a certain number of Government officers and men, at a stipulated price, and at all times to hold their vessels subject to the orders of such officer as may be placed on board to assume command. This company is to receive two hundred and forty thousand pounds sterling per annum, which may, in certain events, be increased to three hundred and ten thousand, or to \$1,388,800.

These steamers are all in rapid progress of construction. They are to be about 1,500 tons burden, and to receive engines of 500 horse power each. Those that have been launched are estimated to be in all respects equal to six gun frigates. 'Thus,' it is said, 'the country will be doubly served; and, while it pays to the mail company 240,000 pounds per annum for the transport of the mails, it will defray, by the same payment, the annual charges of the largest and most powerful steam fleet in the world, fully armed with the heaviest ordnance, to act as war-friars when required by the Government for that purpose.' To which may, at any time, be added the steamers employed in Cunard's line, and those running from London and Bristol to New York. It is also said to be in contemplation to establish another line from some port in England to St. John's, New Brunswick, under a contract similar to that made with the Royal Mail Steam-packet Company. All these lines will be in full operation and employ at least twenty-five, and perhaps thirty, steamers of the largest class and most approved construction on the southern line, and probably those on the northern lines also, having their guns on board. These steamers are to be commanded by officers of the Royal Navy, and to carry such number of officers and men as the Government, under certain regulations, may require, who will thus derive all the necessary instruction to enable them to command and manage vessels of this description. Of the fourteen designed to carry the West India mails, at least ten will be constantly employed in conveying them on the various lines as traced on the map hereto annexed, and it will be seen by reference to it that this formidable fleet will be at all times within three or four days' run of our Southern coast. In the event of a declaration of war by Great Britain against the United States, as she will, of course, possess the information necessary to enable her to concentrate her force, not all the steamers in the West India mail service can be collected at any point on the southern coast by the time a declaration would be communicated to the President. Those employed on the Northern lines to New York and Boston, may commence hostilities before the least preparation can be made to meet them. Depots of coal are to be established at Halifax and at several ports in the West Indies, from whence these fleets can be supplied, and the prediction made some years since by an intelligent and experienced British officer, that their sailing ships of war would become coal carriers to their steamers, will be fulfilled.

There are, it is said, at this time, ten thousand black troops in the British West Indies, and that orders have recently been issued to increase the number to twenty-five thousand. These troops are disciplined and commanded by white officers, and, no doubt, designed to form a most important portion of the force to be employed in any future contest that may arise between Great Britain and the United States; and, by reference to the map of the West India mail lines, it will be seen that, in our present defenceless condition, a force composed of armed steamers and troops of that description would only give great annoyance to our coast, but most effectively and at once put a stop to all communication around Cape Florida, or through the passes of the West Indies, or to or from the Gulf of Mexico, and, consequently, the commerce of the great valley of the Mississippi must fall into the hands of the enemy, or its war products, cut off from market, be rendered valueless."

FOREIGN.—The steamer Caledonia, after a passage of 13 days, arrived at Boston, July 17th. England was in a state of great excitement on account of the elections, which in some places were attended with bloodshed and death. The returns had not all been received, but the Tories had gained somewhat on the Liberals. It is thought that the Irish and Scotch constituencies would make up the loss of the latter. Lord Palmerston had been defeated, but may again run from some of the smaller boroughs.

The news brought overland from China, were not very important, but rather unfavorable to the British.

The war spirit is again rising in France. Some difficulties had taken place at Algiers.

POPULAR MOVEMENT IN PRUSSIA.—An important popular movement has lately been made in Prussia. The magistracy and deputies of the city of Breslau have presented a memorial to the provincial Diet, praying it to unite with them in petitioning the King to establish the promised constitutional representation of the kingdom, according to the patent of 1815.

MASSILLION.—Massillon in this state is a great wheat mart. The Gazette of that place states: "The gross amount of Flour cleared at this Collector's Office during the last year, was forty thousand nine hundred and twenty-one barrels, which was equal to 204,600 bushels of wheat. And of wheat there was cleared at this place eight hundred and forty-four thousand, six hundred and seventy-two bushels; making an amount equal to ONE MILLION, FORTY-NINE THOUSAND, ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-SEVEN bushels of wheat; and this amount annually increasing with the rapid strides making in agriculture by our industrious farmers. But when it is recollected that this is but one of the staple articles of production in this section, some idea may be conceived of the future prospects of Massillon."

TEXAS AND MEXICO.—The government of Mexico has utterly refused any communication from the Texian government, and rejected all mediation.

POLITICAL ABOLITION.—The abolitionists, we see, in several districts of our state have taken decidedly independent political ground.

MOST HORRIBLE.—A most horrible case of Lynchings occurred at Coburg, Canada, June 13th. A black man named Carter, and his wife, a white woman, were the victims. The party broke open his door, destroyed his goods, drove himself and wife naked from their beds, abused, beat and robbed him, seized his wife, threw her upon the ground, gagged and held her fast while four of the party brutally assaulted and violated her person in his

presence. Warrants were issued and but one arrested, who was held to bail. The authorities of the town are much censured, for not taking earlier measures to secure the guilty. A subscription was opened to make up his loss, so far as it could be repaired with money. But what will compensate for the deep and lasting injury to his feelings and his sensibilities?—Nothing.—*Medina Constitutionalist.*

#### CONGRESS.

MORE LYNNING IN ILLINOIS.—The Galena Gazette of the 8th inst., says that from various sources it learns that Daniel Driskill, together with Aiken, has been arrested, and the former tried and sentenced to be shot on the 7th, by the sovereign mob. The press of the Rockford Star, which was honest enough to rebuke the proceedings of the former mob, was assailed by their majesty, and nearly destroyed on the night of the 5th. The horse thieves were better than these wretches—for we do not hear that they attempted to destroy the liberty of the press.

INSANITY.—Insanity is becoming very prevalent. The man who murdered his wife in the upper part of this state was acquitted on the plea of insanity; and it is understood that the defence in the case of Sells who lately butchered Clark, the guard in the penitentiary, is to be insanity. It would seem as if the disposition were almost universal to screen crime from punishment. It is rather a gloomy thought that while crimes are multiplying all over the country, the people seem determined to relax law, and confer impunity on the criminal. If such wretches be indeed insane, let them be confined—and for life, we should say—for it is no more conceivable to be murdered by a man with a wrong head, than a bad heart.

THE WEST UNION BANK.—This bank has at last blown up. A large amount of its trash is in circulation, and as usual, the poor will have to be the sufferers.

TRADE ON THE ERIE CANAL.—The correspondent of the Cincinnati Chronicle says—"The quantity of Flour delivered on the Erie Canal during the second week of the current month, was 44,939 bushels; of Wheat 15,678 bushels.

STEAM NAVIGATION—ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC.—The first steamers, the Peru and Chili, of 700 tons, and nearly 200 horse power, reached the port of Talcahuano, March 20th, after a passage of 55 days from London, through the straits of Magellan! The establishment of steam-navigation in the Pacific is an event of great importance; and will be productive of great consequences, especially if the Atlantic and Pacific should be united at the Isthmus of Panama. A writer in Talcahuano, says—

"I have ocular evidence that the junction can be effected with infinite less difficulty than is imagined. I passed over the Isthmus on my return to this country without experiencing a height of forty feet, and a distance of twenty-eight miles. This is but a barrier of straw compared to the vast results which will be produced. I sincerely hope that one of the first acts of the Government will be to investigate this, to us more than to any other nation in the world, all important matter. Our statesmen cannot but look forward to the period when our Western borders will reach the Pacific, and when the population of the United States reaches that of what infinite value a water communication through the Isthmus of Panama be to us. It may perhaps be thought too speculative to indulge in such views; but when I reflect that twenty years only, the time which I have ever taken place, I cannot but view the period of these great changes to which I have referred, as much nearer than we imagine."

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